

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 EUR-12 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 AID-05 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 HA-05 /106 W  
-----013650 100538Z /11

R 091415Z AUG 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1511  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2214

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, PDEV, IS, JO, SA  
SUBJECT: POLITICS OF ARAB AID TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES

1. NABLUS DEPUTY MAYOR ZAFAR AL MASRI SEES INTER-ARAB  
POLITICS AS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING ECONOMIC  
AID FROM ARAB STATES TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES. AL MASRI  
TOLD POLOFF AUG. 8 THAT MAYOR SHAK'AA HAD LEFT RECENTLY  
TO AMMAN TO TRY TO CONSUMMATE A DEAL WHEREBY SAUDI ARABIA  
WOULD PAY \$5 MILLION DIRECT TO A GERMAN COMPANY FOR PURCHASE  
OF NABLUS' NEW ELECTRICAL GENERATORS. WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED  
BY THE MUNICIPALITY FROM THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN THAT  
SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WAS ACCEPTABLE. IF THERE IS A HITCH,  
THE MAYOR WILL SEEK ALTERNATE FUNDING, BUT AL MASRI DID NOT  
SAY FROM WHERE. IN ANY CASE, SHAK'AA WILL BE LOOKING  
FOR SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING  
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TO EXTEND NABLUS' POWER NETWORK.

2. AL MASRI SAID THE COUNCIL WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT  
LIBYA HAD NOT DELIVERED ANY FUNDS FROM ITS THREE-  
YEAR \$3M COMMITMENT. AL MASRI SPECULATED THAT QADDAFI  
WAS UNHAPPY WITH SHAK'AA HAVING WORKED BOTH SIDES  
OF THE STREET--THE ARAB MODERATES AS WELL AS

EXTREMISTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AT LEAST ONE HIGH KUWAITI OFFICIAL IS BELIEVED BY NABLUS OFFICIALS TO HAVE VOICED CONCERN WITH THE NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS ON THE CITY COUNCIL. (COMMENT: ON BANLUS 10- MAN COUNCIL, THERE ARE THREE REPUTED COMMUNISTS/LEFTISTS.) AL MASRI FEARED THE SAUDIS MIGHT HAVE SIMILAR MISGIVINGS, BUT HE HOPED THEY COULD BE CONVINCED TO SEE AID AS HELPING THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN OFFICIALS.

3. THE POLITICS OF ARAB AID TO WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES HAS ALSO SURFACED IN THE EAST JERUSALEM PRESS. AL QUDS' NABLUS CORRESPONDENT REPORTED AUGUST 5 THAT ALGERIA'S PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE HAD ADOPTED A "SCORCHED EARTH" POLICY WHICH PRECLUDED ANY ECONOMIC AID TO THE WEST BANK PRIOR TO ITS LIBERATION FROM ISRAELI CONTROL. RAMALLAH'S MAYOR KARIM KHALAF QUICKLY CONTRADICTED THIS REPORT BY AFFIRMING THAT ALGERIA (AS WELL AS IRAQ AND LIBYA) AND GIVEN FINANCIAL AID TO RAMALLAH. KHALAF REPORTEDLY WILL SOON GO TO AMMAN TO COLLECT ABOUT \$600,000 IN AID FROM AN UNSPECIFIED SOURCE.

4. COMMENTS: RELATIVELY CASUAL VISITS BY EVEN HARDLINE WEST BANK MAYORS TO AMMAN EVIDENCE AN IMPROVEMENT IN WEST BANK-GOJ RELATIONS. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE SAUDIS AND OTHER ARAB MODERATES CONCEIVE OF WEST BANK/GAZA

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PALESTINIANS AS A DISTINCTIVE SEGMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WORTH INFLUENCING DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF VIA THE PLO.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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